

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2071

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
ON THE DEATH OF JOHN F. LONG.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 John F. Long died on February 29, 2008 at the age of eighty-seven.
2 Born in Phoenix on May 17, 1920, John Long grew up on his family's
3 farm. After graduating from Glendale High School in 1939, he sought work on
4 the railroads before serving in the United States Army Air Forces during
5 World War II. He worked as an engine mechanic on B-17s and B-24s and
6 eventually saw duty in Italy. Following his discharge from the military in
7 October 1945, he joined his father and brother in a construction business and
8 briefly formed a landscaping business, but it wasn't until he launched a
9 homebuilding business that his success took off.

10 In 1954, John Long started Maryvale, a master-planned community in west
11 Phoenix and the first development of its kind in Arizona. He used innovative
12 techniques that combined quality and affordability with practical housing
13 needs and homey neighborhood design, and soon the development was selling
14 hundreds of homes before they were even completed. John Long was devoted to
15 the West Valley in Phoenix at a time when many were focusing on other parts
16 of the valley, and he showed great foresight in implementing frugal energy
17 and water use measures into his building endeavors whenever possible. His
18 accomplishments garnered him the nickname "father of the West Valley."

19 Committed to the Phoenix community, John Long donated money, land and
20 construction services to various worthwhile causes, including affordable
21 housing, rehabilitation services, street maintenance and repair, and parks
22 and libraries. At his own cost, he provided for classroom construction, a
23 community swimming pool and hospital renovations, as well as various youth
24 facilities, churches and food banks. Despite the demands of his business
25 endeavors, he served on the Phoenix City Council, the Maricopa County Board
26 of Health and the Glendale Union High School District board of trustees, as
27 well as numerous other boards and committees. John Long gave freely of his
28 time, energy and efforts and his tremendous philanthropy and commitment to
29 Arizona earned him the respect and admiration of all who knew him.

30 In honor of his fifty years of public service, Arizona State University
31 awarded John Long an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 1996, and in
32 2000 he received the first Lifetime Achievement Award from WESTMARC for his
33 contributions to western Maricopa County. His remarkable contributions to
34 Phoenix will be felt and enjoyed by citizens for generations to come.

35 Dedicated to his family, John Long was preceded in death by his wife of
36 fifty-one years, Mary. He will be greatly missed by his children, Manya,
37 Shirley and Jake, his grandchildren, Jamie, Dan, Matt and Arron, his
38 great-grandson, Abe, his many friends and the citizens of Arizona.

39 Therefore

40 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the
41 Senate concurring:

42 That the Members of the Legislature express sincere regret at the
43 passing of John F. Long and extend their deepest condolences to his surviving
44 family members.